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remarkable muscles in the human body. Necessarily, from the altered position of the ventricles in the negro, there must be corresponding differences in these muscles; but in his paper he had mainly confined himself to the three essential points already described. As to the question whether the gorilla, chimpanzee, and ouran outan had been examined by the laryngoscope, he observed that it was impossible to make observations with that instrument in the larynx of those animals in a living state. He had not extended his observations to other races of mankind, but if the opportunity occurred he would do so. His idea was, that those cartilages he had pointed out as invariably present in the larynx of the negro, existed in some other races of mankind, but not in all.

Dr. PEACOCK then read a paper *On the Weight of the Brain and Capacity of the Skull of a Negro*. [This paper is inserted in the *Memoirs* of the Society.]

The thanks of the meeting having been given to the author of the paper,

Dr. PEACOCK made some observations on the various substances employed to ascertain the capacity of skulls. He said it was most important that in all such measurements the same substance should be employed by all anatomists. Some employed sand, others shot, and others again used pepper-corns or millet seed, the use of which various substances was liable to occasion diversity in the results. He had tried them all, and objections might be raised to each; but, though in the measurements given in the paper he had used millet seed to correspond with the observations of Tiedemann, he preferred sand as least objectionable. Whether millet seed or sand was best might be matter of doubt, but it was at all events most desirable that the same kind of substance should be employed by all.

Mr. MACKENZIE made some observations with reference to the importance of having a standard mode of measurement. Sand was not perhaps the best, and a better substance might be found, but he thought the suggestion of Dr. Peacock was so valuable that the Society ought to adopt a resolution to try and obtain a good average standard of measurement.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council of the Society were engaged in forming instructions for their local secretaries, with the view of getting all anthropologists to work on one uniform plan. It appeared to him that there was less objection to dry sand than to other substances. He hoped that ere long general instructions on the subject would be prepared; they were now collecting data, and when they had all the facts before them they would be able to come to a decision. As to the paper that had been read, the history of the specimen exhibited was not sufficiently satisfactory to enable them to draw any sound inference; but the facts mentioned were of considerable importance. A great difficulty had been found in obtaining specimens of pure negro skulls; and unless there were an authentic history attached to a skull it was uncertain whether it was the skull of a pure negro or otherwise, for the negro races were much mixed.

Even Dr. Nott, when residing among the negroes, had great difficulty in procuring a genuine negro skull. They were indebted, however, to Dr. Peacock for his paper, though they could not found any generalisation on the case brought forward.

Dr. PEACOCK said there could be no doubt that the skull exhibited was that of a genuine African. The skulls of negroes vary very much even amongst the genuine races, as European skulls differ; but he felt sure that the specimen on the table was that of a pure negro, though he did not know of what race. Referring to the discussion on Dr. Gibb's paper on the larynx, he said he considered the facts bearing on the difference of the organs of the white man and the black as of great importance. Dr. Gibb had mentioned that the distribution of the arteries was different in the negro from the European race, and he thought it probable that it would be found on careful comparison that in the system generally there were minute distinctions.

The following paper was also contributed by Dr. Peacock:—

Memorandum on a Skull exhumed at Pavenham, in Bedfordshire. By
T. B. PEACOCK, M.D., L.R.C.P.

The skull, together with other bones, was recently exhumed in a gravel-pit on the property of Joseph Tucker, Esq., at Pavenham, in Bedfordshire. Three years ago several skulls were found; last year one was exposed, and altogether parts of eleven skeletons have been found in the same place. The bodies had been buried in the gravel, trenches being apparently dug just so deep as to contain them, and then covered with the soil which was about two feet in depth. The skeletons were laid flat, some had their heads to the north, but others were in all directions. Along with the bones were found some large iron nails and pieces of iron, six or eight inches long, possibly the remains of swords or spear-heads, and some pieces of pottery.

The skulls, with the nails and pottery, were sent by the Rev. S. Ram to Dr. Rolleston, of Oxford, and are now in the Radcliffe Museum. The long pieces of iron were thrown back into the pit, and covered with soil.

Dr. Rolleston regards the pieces of pottery sent to him as decidedly Roman, and states that they are "well burnt and of fine finish, but not quite of the colour of Samian ware." The skulls, he says, have not "the rough and worn appearance in general, nor any of the special characters ascribed to British; the teeth are much worn, but in other respects they present such characters as are found in true Roman crania."

The skull exhibited to the Society is imperfect, wanting the bones of the face, but the calvaria is complete. The frontal region is somewhat narrow and low, and the parietal regions are flattened, the sagittal ridge prominent, and the vertex somewhat pointed. The sutures are entire. The cranial cavity is large, being capable of containing seventy-two ounces eight drachms of sand, by avoirdupois weight, indicating a capacity of eighty cubic inches, or of 1310 cubic centimètres.

The longitudinal diameter is seven inches and a half, the trans-
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